

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/698,443

Examiner

Hien X. Vo

Applicant(s)

SAKURADA ET AL.

Art Unit

2863

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed on 11/03/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-26.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 03 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/03/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 11/03/03 . The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-26 allowed
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Although the prior art disclose several claimed limitations, for example:

Schiff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,062,948) discloses a computer communicates with the sensor and the sensor head arm to determine, during the machining process, the relative position of the sensor head to the workpiece, the proximity of the sensor to the workpiece, the position of the workpiece, and the dimensions of the workpiece.

The gauging apparatus is capable of performing measurements of the workpiece for initial positioning and for precision dimensional measurements. Computer control of the grinding machine allows for generation of a workpiece profile and adjustments in the machining of the workpiece until targeted results are achieved.

Clynch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,432,703) disclose a system and method for producing a device, such as a prosthetic or orthodontic structure, is provided, having

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an inner surface for engagement with a portion of the human body. The system produces a more accurately fitting socket and involves a less time-consuming process with less discomfort to the patient. In the socket made from the mold, processed by the present system, the areas of enlargements provide areas of relief in the surface of the structure and the areas of reductions provide higher pressure areas in the areas in the surface.

Marks (U.S. Patent No. 5,117,757) discloses a method of making an elastomer lined composite vessel or portion of such vessel is disclosed. The method comprises causing a thin, tacky ribbon comprising an elastomer (preferably curable) to continuously so encircle a center rotational axis of a mandrel as to adjacently position and tack together integral segments of the ribbon substantially circumferentially relative to this center rotational axis thereby forming a layer of the elastomer about the mandrel which may be the shell of the pressure vessel in case of internal application of the insulator or may be a workpiece around which the shell is built over the so-layed ribbon.

As per claims 1 and 26, none of the prior art teach singularly or in combination an input step for inputting data obtained by scanning over a feature area including at least a feature point area and a non-feature point area of a workpiece surface with a detector of the surface texture measuring machine for measuring surface texture by scanning over a workpiece surface; a feature point selection step for extracting the coordinate values of feature points of the data by statistically processing the data obtained in the input step; and an origin setting step for setting the origin of a workpiece coordinate

system relative to an origin setting target point of the workpiece based on the coordinate values of the feature points obtained in the feature point selection step.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hien X. Vo whose telephone number is (571) 272-2282. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on (571) 272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hien Vo
December 23, 2004


John Barlow
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800